(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS. (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). There has been no change in the Government decision to dis-continue the loan licensing system in drug sector beyond 31.12.1991. However a number of representations have been received from the Industry which are being examined.

[*Translation*]

Price of Salt

6748.SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of salt has been increased inspite of its very good production in country this year;

(b) if so, the dates on which the prices of Salt have been increased during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to encourage the production of salt in the last three years and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any long-term scheme with regard to check the smuggling of salt to various countries and to encourage the production thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). There has been no increase in the overall retail prices of salt this year. However, the retail prices of salt have marginally increased this year as compared to the previous three years due to various factors such as increase in the freight, handling charges, local transport and the cost of packaging material.

(c) to (e). Various steps have been taken by the Government to increase salt production. These include bringing more areas under salt cultivation, optimum utilisation of salt lands by adopting scientific production techniques. Possibilities of exploiting the salt potential of the Great Rann of Kutch are also being explored as a long term measures to increase salt production.

Government have not received any report about smuggling of salt. However, the concerned State Governments have already been advised to take appropriate action in the regard.

[*English*]

Drug Policy

6749. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce significant changes in the Drug Policy with a view to revise it and the accompanying price control mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the suggestions proposed by the drug industry for inclusion in the new drug policy; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZ-

ERS. (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d). The Drug Policy 1986, is under review. A number of suggestions have been received from the Industry which are also being kept in view during this exercise. It would be premature to disclose the modifications at this stage.

Availability of Pamolein to Public in Super Bazar

6750. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the popularly used pamolein is not available to the public in Super Bazars regularly;

(b) if so, steps taken for proper and regular supply of pamolein to the public;

(c) whether the Government propose to distribute this oil through Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). The supply of palmolein through the outlets of Public Distribution System including Super Bazar depends upon the allocation of imported edible oils under Public Distribution System to States/UTs by Central Government. Central Government has not made any regular allocation of imported edible oils including palmolein to States/UTs since April, 1991 due to suspension of import of edible oils on account of foreign exchange constraints. The allocation of imported edible oils will be resumed as and when imports are made.

Special Schemes for Border Areas

6751. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to launch some special development programmes in the border areas was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, when these programmes are proposed to be introduced;

(c) whether these programmes are likely to be introduced in the border areas of Rajasthan too; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d). From the Seventh Plan a Special Area Programme designated Border Areas Development Programme (BADP) has been in operation in four States on the Western Borders including Rajasthan. The principle focus of the programme has been on development of human resources and irrigation facilities. The actual expenditure under the programme in the Seventh Plan was about Rs. 224 crores. An outlay of Rs. 86 crores was made under the programme in the Annual Plan of 1990-91. The provision in the current year's Annual Plan viz. 1991-92 is Rs. 85 crores.

[*Translation*]

Setting Up Of Industries in M.P. By NRI

6752. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any non-resident Indian